

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2001 SESSION

CHAPTER 594

An Act to amend and reenact § 4.1-123 of the Code of Virginia, relating to alcoholic beverage control; referendum on Sunday wine and beer sales.

[H 2250]

Approved March 24, 2001

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 4.1-123 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 4.1-123. Referendum on Sunday wine and beer sales.

A. Either the qualified voters or the governing body of any county, city, or town may file a petition with the circuit court of the county or city or of the county wherein the town or the greater part thereof is situated asking that a referendum be held on the question of whether the sale of beer and wine on Sunday should be permitted within that jurisdiction. The petition of voters shall be signed by qualified voters equal in number to at least ten percent of the number registered in the jurisdiction on January 1 preceding its filing or at least 100 qualified voters, whichever is greater. Upon the filing of a petition, the court shall order the election officials of the county, city, or town, on the date fixed in the order, to conduct a referendum on the question. The clerk of the circuit court shall publish notice of the referendum in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, city, or town once a week for three consecutive weeks prior to the referendum.

The question on the ballot shall be:

"Shall the sale of wine and beer between the hours of twelve o'clock p.m. on each Saturday and six o'clock a.m. on each Monday be permitted in..... (name of county, city, or town)?"

The referendum shall be ordered and held and the results certified as provided in § 24.2-684. Thereupon the court shall enter of record an order certified by the clerk of the court to be transmitted to the Board and to the governing body of the county, city, or town.

Notwithstanding an ordinance adopted pursuant to § 4.1-129, an affirmative majority vote on the question shall be binding on the governing body of the county, city, or town, and the governing body shall take all actions required of it to legalize such Sunday sales.

B. *Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A or § 4.1-129, where property that constitutes a farm winery lies within, or abuts, the boundaries of two adjoining counties, one of which has a population between 12,000 and 12,100 and one of which has a population between 17,450 and 17,500, the retail sale of wine by the farm winery licensee in the county that restricts the sale of wine and beer shall be allowed at one fixed location on a parcel of land that contains all or part of the licensee's producing vineyard and the licensee's vinification facilities.*

The Board may refuse to allow such licensee the exercise of his retail sales privilege in the county restricting the Sunday sale of wine and beer if the Board determines, after giving the licensee notice and a hearing, that (i) the owner of the farm winery had actual knowledge that the vinification facilities and all or part of the producing vineyard were going to be located in the county restricting the sale of wine and beer prior to construction of the vinification facilities or (ii) the primary business purpose of the farm winery licensee is to engage in the retail sale of wine in such county rather than the business of a farm winery.

Nothing in this subsection shall apply to a farm winery licensee that has a retail establishment for the sale of its wine in the county adjoining the county that restricts the Sunday sale of wine and beer if the retail establishment is within one-half mile of the farm winery's vinification facilities.